

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Quint et al. ) Group Art Unit 1655  
 )  
Appl. No. : Unknown )  
 )  
Filed : Herewith )  
 )  
For : PROBES, METHODS AND )  
KITS FOR DETECTION AND )  
TYPING OF HELICOBACTER )  
PYLORI NUCLEIC ACIDS IN )  
BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES )  
 )  
Examiner : J. Goldberg )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 1, of the specification, after the Title of the Invention please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application Number 09/284,725, filed April 16, 1999, which is a U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of the International Application PCT/EP97/05614, filed October 10, 1997 and published in English, which claims priority to EP 97870133.2, filed September 9, 1997 and EP 96870131.8, filed October 16, 1996. The European applications are incorporated herein by reference.

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REMARKS

Amendments to the specification were made to claim priority to related applications. No new matter has been added. Changes to the specification can be seen on a separate page entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE following the signature page. Insertions are underlined.

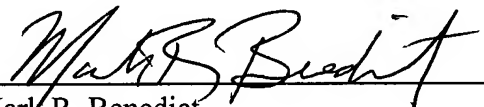
Should any questions arise which would delay prosecution of the present application the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the under-signed attorney at the telephone number below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/21/01

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